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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION - OCTOBER 26

1. AL-AHRAM
SIX BANNERHEADS DEALT WITH: "WORLD NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION CAUSED BY ME WAR."; MOSCOW WARNING TO WASHINGTON THAT "IT WOULD DO ANYTHING TO FULFILL ITS CEASEFIRE ASSURANCE,"; U.S. NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCE ON STANDBY; U.S. RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER EGYPT; AND TENSE MILITARY SITUATION ON CANAL FRONT DUE TO "REPEATED ISRAELI CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS."
MAIN STORY REPORTED NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION BEGINNING IN WASHINGTON WHEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR SUBMITTED NOTE STATING "USSR IS READY TO ACT UNILATERNALLY, IF U.S. DOES NOT WISH TO SHARE IN JOINT EFFORT TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM IGNORING SC CEASEFIRE RESOLUTIONS AND DELIBERATELY VIOLATING CEASEFIRE."
SEPARATE SUBHEAD STORY COVERED U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT, STORY INCLUDED KISSINGER'S STATEMENT THAT "U.S. OPPOSES UNILATERAL DISPATCH OF FORCES TO ME BY MAJOR POWERS, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR POWERS, UNDER ANY PRETEXT," AND SC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FORMATION INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FORCE EXCLUDING SC PERMANENT MEMBERS.
BONN WIRE SERVICE STORY REPORTED WEST GERMAN MEASURES
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TO PREVENT ARMS FROM U.S. DEPOTS IN WEST GERMANY GOING TO

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ISRAEL.
SINGLE COLUMN STORIES REPORTED U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANES WERE TRACKED ON RADAR OVER EGYPT, AND FIRST CONTINGENT OF U.S. EMERGENCY FORCE ARRIVED IN EGYPT FROM CYPRUS.
MAIN FOREIGN PAGE STORY FROM BEIRUT MAINTAINED THAT ARAB OIL STATES "WILL NOT LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON OIL SHIPMENTS TO U.S. AFTER CEASEFIRE."
ON FEATURE PAGE, NYT'S LESLY GELB SAID BRITAIN, ITALY TURKEY AND GREECE REFUSED PASSAGE OF U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL THROUGH THEIR TERRITORY FOR FEAR OF ARAB OIL CUTS.
LEAD LOCAL PAGE STORY COVERED REMARKS OF PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISOR, AHSRAF GHORBAL, "U.S. WAS 'ANXIOUS' FOR CEASE-FIRE, BUT DAYAN SAID HE WOULD USE CEASEFIRE TO BOLSTER ISRAELI FORCES WESTOOF CANAL." GHORBAL ALSO SAID U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS SHIPPED "DIRECTLY TO SINAL BATTLEFIELD THUS USING EGYPTIAN TERRITORY TO ATTACK DEEPER INTO EGYPT." HE STATED U.S. "FOR SIX YEARS IGNORED OUR PEACEFUL EFFORTS AND EXPLICIT DEMANDS TO RETRIEVE OUR LANDS FULLY."
HEIKAL, IN WEEKLY EDITORIAL, DISCUSSED U.S. ARMS RE-SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL. HE SAID "AFTER FIRST TEN DAYS OF WAR, THE EGYPTIAN POLITICAL DECISION MAKER FOUND HIMSELF CON-FRONTED WITH DIRECT U.S. INTERVENTION."
MAIN EDITORIAL CONSIDERED "INCREDIBLE" KISSINGER'S THURSDAY PRESS STATEMENT THAT U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT "FINDING SOLUTION ON WHICH ME PEACE CAN BE BASED." EDITORIAL JUXTAPOSED U.S. WAR AID TO ISRAEL WITH ITS DISREGARD FOR ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING U.S. INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ACCESS TO ARAB OIL.
COLUMNIST AHMED BAHA FLDIN MAINTAINED THAT WITHOUT "UNUSUAL, QUICK AND HEAVY" U.S. AID, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE FOCED REAL DISASTER.

2. AL-AKHBAR
SEVEN BANNERHEADS DESCRIBED U.S. GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALERT AS "MILITARY DEMONSTRATION TO SUPPORT ISRAEL," AND MENTIONED "STRONG" SOVIET NOTE TO WASHINGTON THAT "SOVIET FORCES WILL GO TO ME."
U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT WAS COVERED UNDER FOUR-COLUMN HEADLINE DESCRIBING STEP AS "GRAVES SINCE CUBAN MISSILES CRISIS."
FRONTPAGE CENTER STORY COVERED PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISOR'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

REMARKS UNDER HEADLINE "WE FIGHT ENEMY USING U.S. VOLUNTEERS... U.S. ARMS ARE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO BATTLEFIELD."
FORMATION OF UN EMERGENCY FORCE INDICATING NON-PARTICIPATION OF FIVE MAJOR POWERS WAS COVERED UNDER TWO COLUMN HEADLINES.
LOCAL PAGE QUOTED NYT STORY ON WEST GERMAN AND PORTUGESE COOPERATION IN AIRLIFTING U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL.
MAIN EDITORIAL INTERPRETED U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT AS

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"PRETEXT TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S ANTI-ARAB WAR." AND "AS ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAEL'S MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST EGYPT AND SYRIA."

ON SAME THEME, FRONTPAGE COLUMNIST MOUSSA SABRI SAID "U.S. IMPERIALISM IS PLACING ENTIRE WORLD ON BRINK OF WAR BECAUSE ISRAEL WAS DEFEATED IN SINAI."

COLUMNIST RIFAAT EL-MAHGOUB DESCRIBED STRATEGIC ALERT AS "OVERT U.S. INTERVENTION ON ISRAEL'S SIDE."

AL-AKHBAR BACKPAGE COLUMNIST ANIS MANSOUR SAID THAT "(EGYPTIAN') BELIEF IN GOD ... IS STRONGER THAN POISONOUS IMPERIALIST RADIO LOUDSPEAKERS FROM TEL AVIV, VOA OR LONDON."

3. AL-GOMHOURIYA

FIRST OF FIVE BANNERHEADS STATED BOTH SOVIET AND AMERICAN FORCES ARE IN STATE OF ALERT.

MAIN FOREIGN PAGE STORY REPORTED ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL. THREE-COLUMN BEIRUT AND WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICES STORY REPORTED CONTINUING ARAB OIL REDUCTION TO U.S.

BONN REQUEST THAT U.S. STOP USING WEST GERMAN TERRITORY IN AIRLIFTING ARMS TO ISRAEL WAS PUBLISHED IN TWO FOREIGN PAGE COLUMNS.

BRIEF FOREIGN PAGE ITEMS REPORTED U.S. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER SYRIA. PRESIDENT PRESS ADVISOR'S STATMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON LOCAL PAGE STRESSSING US SHIPPING ARMS TO ISRAEL DIRECTLY TO SINAI BATTLE-FIELD.

4. COMMENT

MAIN TOPIC IN ALL PAPERS WAS PRESUMED POTENTIAL US/SOVIET NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION OVER ME WAR. COM-

MENTATORS CONSIDERED US STRATEGIC ALERT AN INDICATION OF OPEN AND OVERWHELMING SUPPORT TO ISRAEL.

NEWS OF US STRATEGIC ALERT (IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, AS IT IS SEEN IN CAIRO) CAPPED A PERIOD OF UNREMITTING INDICATIONS (I.E., NO DECREASE IN US ARMS RESUPPLY, US PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS, USG 2 BILLION DOLLAR MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS, MILLIONS DONATED TO ISRAEL BY US PRIVATE CITIZENS, UNWILLINGNESS OF US TO COMMIT PEACEKEEPING FORCES, ETC.) OF "OVERWHELMING" US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. DOUBT AND DISTRUST OF US IN-TENTIONS REGARDING CEASEFIRE AND PEACE RESOLUTION IS INCREASING NOTICEABLY.

SMITH

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